MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... One minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please resume your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please resume your places. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am afraid Members are not willing to abide by the agreement made. The Chair has no option but to adjourn the House till 12 o'clock.

The House then adjourned at eighteen minutes past eleven of the clock till twelve noon.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

[MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Widening the scope of NREGA

*61. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to widen the scope of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of obstructions have arisen in widening the scope of NREGA and Government has set up an expert committee to clear them;

(d) if so, the details of these obstructions and the present status thereof; and

(e) the steps Government proposes to take to remove the same and to implement NREGA in an effective way?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The benefits of works on individual lands as given in para 1 (iv) of Schedule I of NREG Act have been extended to small and marginal farmers *vide* Notification dated 22.7.2009 as per the following amendment:

"Provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes or below poverty line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana of Government of India or that of the small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debit Relief Scheme, 2008."

Further, construction of Bharat Nirman, Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra as Village Knowledge Resource Centre and Gram Panchayat Bhawan at Gram Panchayat level has been included as a permissible activity in para 1 of Schedule I of the Act *vide* Notification dated 11.11.2009.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

N.C. Saxena Committee on BPL families

*62. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the findings and recommendation of Dr. N.C. Saxena Committee regarding identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;

(b) whether the Report has pointed out serious flaws/lapses in the existing system; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Expert Group to advise the Ministry of Rural Development on the methodology for conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census for eleventh Five Year Plan was constituted on 12.8.2008. The Expert Group examined the methodologies used in the BPL Census 2002 and commented upon certain constraints which led to the exclusion of some of the genuinely poor households. The score-based methodology for certain poverty indicators became disincentive for households to access benefits of sanitation, housing and education. Certain parameters for assessing poverty could not be objectively measured. The report of the Expert Group, submitted to this Ministry on 21.8.2009, has been posted on Ministry's *website at www.rural.nic.in*. The Expert Group recommended the methodology for identification of Below Poverty Line families, which involves automatic exclusion of rural household from the BPL list, automatic inclusion in the BPL list and grading of the remaining households.

(c) The report of the Expert Group has been circulated among the State Governments/UT administrations and the concerned Central Ministries for their comments. This Ministry is in the process of finalizing the methodology for identification of persons below the Poverty Line in rural areas, taking into account the suggestion/comments received.

Effect of monetary/credit measures on growth rate

†*63. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of India in the years 2007-08 and 2008-09, month-wise;

(b) the details of amount put in circulation through monetary and credit linked measures by Government and the Reserve Bank of India, year-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.